

Frequently Asked Questions – Zoning

Listed below are questions that the Zoning Department frequently must answer. Please contact us at 589-3090 and we will be glad to help you!

Q. What are my setbacks?

A. It depends on the Zoning District you live in. There are 7 different residential zones in Nashua, please call and we'll be glad to confirm your setbacks.

Q. Do I need a building permit to put up a shed?

A. Yes, they must be at least 6 feet from a side or rear property line, and at least 20 feet from the front property line. Also, they cannot exceed 20 feet in height.

Q. Do I need a building permit for a fence? How high a fence can I put up? Also, can it go on my property line?

A. You do not need a permit for a fence. The maximum fence height is six feet tall, and it cannot impede with any traffic circulation. Also, there is no setback for fences.

Q. Can I have a business out of my home?

A. Yes, depending on the level of activity, the approval may be done administratively, or may require approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. There are minor and major home occupations – the one you'll need will depend on the average number of visitors/clients/customers/patients per week. Please call, and we will discuss the process with you.

Q. Can I have an in-law apartment in my house?

A. In-law apartments require a Special Exception, subject to approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. You will need to submit an application, which are located in the City's website, in the Planning Department.

Q. How wide can my driveway be?

A. The maximum width is 24 feet wide at the front property line. However, if your curb-cut is to be widened, contact the DPW Streets Department at 589-4750, to obtain a curb-cut permit.

Q. What zone is a piece of property in?

A. If you give us the site address, we will be glad to look it up.

Q. Do I need a sign permit if I just "reface" my sign?

A. No, a sign "re-face" does not need a sign permit.

Q. *Can I raise chickens in my yard?*

A. It depends on the zoning district you live in, please call us and we can verify.

Q. *How big of a garage can I build?*

A. It depends on whether it's attached to your house, or detached, and what your setbacks are. Please call us, and we'll be glad to go over your proposal with you.

Q. *Can I make my house into a two-family, or rent out rooms?*

A. It depends on your zoning district, and the size of your property. Some zones only allow single-family homes, while others allow two-family units or multi-family units. Please call us, and we'll be glad to look into it for you.